

EMBARGOES TILL DELIVERY

*INCHE OTHMAN OKAR.*  
SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, ORGANISING COMMITTEE  
FOR THE 1972 PESTA SUKAN, AT SEA VIEW HOTEL, ON  
SUNDAY, 25TH JUNE, 1972. AT 7.30 P.M.

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Mr. Minister, Ladies & Gentlemen,

We are indeed grateful to the Minister for Social Affairs and Chairman, National Sports Promotion Board, Inche Othman Wok, for his continued and increasing support for sports in general and the Pesta Sukan in particular and for hosting this function tonight to bring our sporting fraternity together again with the view to getting down to serious business of organisation of requirements for the 1972 Pesta Sukan.

I am also equally pleased to inform you that the Minister has obtained the very generous co-operation and assistance of the Singapore Turf Club again in adopting the Pesta Sukan and helping out with a very substantial donation of \$250,000 which is \$50,000 more than the sum given last year. We are much obliged to the Singapore Turf Club for their enlightened interest in and contribution to the growth of Pesta Sukan, which in its own way has helped to foster close international relations in this part of the world.

This year's Pesta Sukan does not attempt to do anything spectacular or new but to consolidate and improve on the efficiency and success of the programme of last year. However, as Pesta Sukan this year coincides with the Olympic Games held in Munich and hoping that there would be participation induced from contingents from other countries on their return home from Munich, we have extended the Pesta Sukan period from 2nd August to 20th September, 1972. We hope that there will be good response from the ASEAN countries and also Australia and New Zealand. It is also likely that in some sports and events, there will be participants from more distant lands but it is still too early to determine what these will be.

It is our national sports organisations that initiate the programmes of Pesta Sukan and we trust that this year's planning will have greater reflection and concern for detail to ensure that things do not go wrong

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and our visitors are well looked after and kept happy. More members of our sports organisations should come forward to volunteer their services, especially in serving as Liaison Officers and receptionists in functions organised for foreign visitors. They will be made to feel so much the more welcome in Singapore if more Singaporeans were to go out of their way to make them feel part of us when they are here.

The Sea View Hotel will again be the Festival Village for this year's Pesta Sukan. All of us recall the pleasure and the happy experiences we shared in this Village last year and we are grateful to the Management for their very reasonable terms and good service and for their agreement in principle to offer the same if not a better deal this year. They believe, like many sponsors do, that sports will benefit them in the long run through the publicity and patronage accorded.

We look forward to more and more business firms helping all sports organisations in this year's Pesta Sukan events by becoming donors and sponsors for specific requirements. Their contribution will be magnanimous in that they will provide for better events, better organisations and better employment and, in this way, they will get better support from our people.

Lastly, we trust that this year's Pesta Sukan will be a forerunner for sportsmen and for sponsors as well as officials and organisers for next year's SEAP Games and above all, <sup>that</sup> spectators will be forthcoming in very much bigger numbers for the various events so as to justify this event which is after all organised for their enjoyment.

I have now great pleasure in calling upon our Minister and Chairman of the National Sports Promotion Board, Inche Othman Wok, to address us.